

Appl. No. 10/081,963
Amdt. Dated Dec. 8, 2002
Reply to Office action of July 01, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 have been canceled.

Claims 4-9 have been canceled and rewritten in independent form as new claims 14-19 to include all of the limitations of claim 1, which was the base claim, as well as the limitations of intervening claims.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 4-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 10-13 have been withdrawn.

Claim 2 has been rewritten, without the addition of new material as claim 20, to depend upon claim 14.

Because claim 20 depends upon allowable claim 14, it is not anticipated by Sasaki et al.

Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

Applicant has amended the claims of this application in accordance with the examiner's comments and statements. If for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. Section 2173.02 and Section 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place the application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,

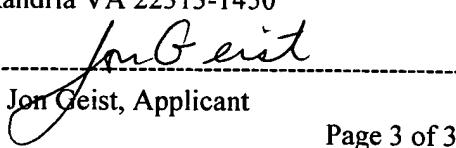


Jon Geist
Applicant Pro se

4410 Winding Oak Drive
Olney MD 20832
301 774-7280 - phone and fax
jon.geist@ieee.org

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2004 DEC 08



Jon Geist, Applicant